

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 14

House resolution relating to the cultural, religious, and political status of Tibet and Tibetans

Offered by: Representatives Townsend of South Burlington, Cole of Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Deen of Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, Forguites of Springfield, Gonzalez of Winooski, Head of South Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Hubert of Milton, Jewett of Ripton, Krowinski of Burlington, LaClair of Barre Town, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lewis of Berlin, Long of Newfane, Macaig of Williston, Martel of Waterford, Martin of Wolcott, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Murphy of Fairfax, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Wright of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, Tibet has a long and proud cultural, religious, and political history, and

Whereas, the People's Republic of China invaded Tibet in 1950, and

Whereas, since 1950, the people of Tibet have experienced continuing threats to every aspect of their autonomy and historic heritage, and

Whereas, the Tibetan community in Vermont is located primarily in Burlington and South Burlington, and is deeply concerned with the welfare of Tibet and its people, and

Whereas, the State Department's 2014 International Religious Freedom Report stated that Chinese authorities "severely restricted religious freedom and engaged in widespread interference in religious practices, especially in Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and nunneries," and

Whereas, the State Department's 2015 Tibet Negotiations Report documented that with respect to U.S. diplomats and journalists, "permission to travel to the TAR [Tibet Autonomous Region] is routinely denied," now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body supports the U.S. government's promoting improved access to Tibet for U.S. diplomats, journalists, and citizens, including Tibetan Americans; encourages the government of the People's Republic of China and representatives of the Dalai Lama to resume negotiations, discontinued in 2010, for a middle-way approach that would provide true autonomy for Tibet within the People's Republic of China; supports the U.S. government's making human rights a high priority in its relationship with the People's Republic of China, including the rights of Tibetans and other nonChinese people; supports programs that assist sustainable development and cultural traditions on the Tibetan plateau; supports humanitarian assistance for Tibetan refugees; and supports acknowledgment of Tibet's critical environmental significance, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Office of Tibet in Washington, D.C., to the International Campaign for Tibet, to President Obama, to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, D.C., and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.